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84. Abolition of paddy pattom on Kandukrishi lands.

The member also observed—

that the system of realizing *pattom* on Kandukrishi lands in kind was as mischievous in its operation and prejudicial to the well-being of the land-holders as the general system of taxation in kind and requested that early measures be adopted for the abolition of the system.

Dewan's reply.—Will be considered.

85. Opening of agricultural banks and model farms.

Mr. J. Mathew (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that agriculture was being carried on in a primitive fashion and with antiquated implements, and comparatively little progress could be made, unless Government took the lead in the matter of familiarizing the people with and convincing them of the utility of scientific methods and implements. He advocated the creation of an Agricultural Department and the starting of model farms and also the opening of Agricultural banks for the benefit of the poor ryots with the money lying in the Government Treasuries.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Nayar Samajam, Quilon) observed that in spite of the fact that 60 per cent. of the population subsisted upon agriculture and 16·37 per cent. of the cultivated area was devoted to the production of rice, it was lamentably true that rice to the value of 11 lakhs of rupees was being annually imported. He then referred to the series of events which had happened during the last fifty years to impoverish the agricultural classes—the reduction of agricultural profits to the lowest minimum due to the rise in wages without an increase in the efficiency of labour; the revival of the ancient tyranny of the Jenmis in the exaction of their dues under the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation and the consequent utter ruin to which many a Kudiyan had been brought; the introduction of the Stamps, Registration and Court-fees Regulations; the amount claimed by the Vakils and that spent on English education which turned out every year a large number of boys utterly unfit for the Government service or the professions and unwilling to handle the plough; the Survey and Settlement operations under which elaborate escheat and *Patta* enquiries had been conducted and *Vilayarthoms* on *Viruthi* lands levied to the utter ruin of many landowners till the present administration abolished the former and placed the latter on a reasonable and sound basis; and lastly, the increase in the wants of the people and the rise in their standard of comfort due to the advance of western civilization and the spread of western ideas. These and the frequent failure of the monsoons tended to throw the ryots on the scant mercy of the money-lender who by levying oppressive rates of interest was annihilating the ancient landed gentry. In such a state of things, he said it was the duty of Government to rescue

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the people, especially the small proprietors, by proper laws and to help them with money. He suggested that the surplus fund of 80 lakhs and the wealth lying unused in the several Devaswoms might be made available to the ryots by means of loans at moderate interest.

Mr. K. G. Sesha Aiyer (Member, Central Association, Trivandrum) advocated the opening of model farms in all Districts, where agriculture might be taught as a subject of study with reference to modern scientific advancements and results. He submitted that agricultural farming, the most important industry of the State, was entitled to a fair share of the State funds, even to a larger share than fell to the development of commerce or the mechanical arts.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions will be considered. Government will endeavour to have at least one model farm started in the near future.

86. Equalisation of assessment in the same Provertis.

Mr. J. Mathew also spoke of the arbitrary inequalities in the assessments levied in different plots in the same field and urged the equalisation of taxes on lands in the same Provertis.

Dewan's reply.—Will be considered.

87. Reduction of Payattuputtom tax.

Mr. Kurien Kathanar Mathen (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) said that in assessing garden lands, the old rates were being adhered to without any regard to situation, productiveness, present condition, &c. He referred to the assessments in the Provertis of Changanacheri and Manchatikara and requested that the lands might be properly classified and the assessment made uniform with that in other Taluks.

Dewan's reply.—This is a matter which was mentioned also in the memorial presented at Changanacheri. The block statements have not been sanctioned. The representation will be considered when the statements come up.

88. Compulsory and free primary education.

Mr. C. Raghava Menon (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) suggested that primary education should be made compulsory and given free to all classes. He referred to the statistics furnished by the Census of 1901 and the Administration Reports and said that, though Travancore was ahead of other Provinces and States in point of literacy, only a fraction of the total population could be said to be receiving any instruction.

Mr. M. Krishna Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) urged the passing of a law making it compulsory on

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